

REMARKS

1. Claims 25-32 are pending in the application. Of these claims, claims 28 and 29 stand rejected and claims 25-27 and 30-32 stand allowed. This communication amends claims 25 and 28-31; and adds claims 33-39.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

2. The abstract has been amended so that it does not exceed 150 words and the status of the application identified in the benefit claim on page 1 of the specification has been updated.

3. Claims 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response, claim 28 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the oxide layer forming step and claim 29 has been amended to clearly recite the alternative deposition processes. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

4. Allowed independent claim 25 has been amended to broaden the claim somewhat, i.e., the term "silicon" has been canceled, and to correct a typographical error, i.e., the term "nitride layers" has been changed to -- nitride layer-- .

New claims 33-38 essentially recite the subject matter of claim 25. No new matter is believed entered by new claims 33-38. Further, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 33-38 are patentable over the prior art of record.

Claim 28 has been amended to remove the limitation "wherein said liner oxide layer has a thickness of between about 50 and 300 Angstroms" which is now recited in new claim 38.

Claims 30 and 31 have been amended to recite the correct selectivities. Support for these

amendments can be respectively found in the last paragraph on page 8 and the second full paragraph on page 9.

5. Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested as it is believed that all outstanding issues have been addressed herein and, further, that claims 25-39 are in condition for allowance. Should there be any questions or matters whose resolution may be advanced by a telephone call, the examiner is cordially invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at his number listed below.

6. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any filing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17, which are associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2061.

Respectfully submitted,



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